

Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 12th October 2023 at 7.45pm.

Present: Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council & TATA), Stephen Loyd (Environmentalist & Stanlake Copse Initiative), Rebecca Howard (Polehampton School Secret Garden & Stanlake Trees), Jackie Jagger (Twyford Parish Council), Graham Starkie (TRHA & Twyford History Society), Gerry Wise (Adopt a Street & Twyford History Society), Gavin Robinson (Gardening Volunteer & Loddon Hall Storage Container) & Ian Butterick (Stanlake Meadow Copse).

Minutes: Mrs Lynn Povey (Deputy Clerk, Twyford Parish Council).

1. **Welcome.** Mrs B Ditcham welcomed everyone.
2. **Apologies.** Nikki Ochtman (RG10) & Prabha Lacey (Gardening Volunteer)
3. **Review of Twyford in Bloom 2023:**
- 3.1 Results – To note:
 - Silver Gilt for the Small-Town category.
 - Winners of the regional award for Heritage.

Noted.

- 3.2 Judges Feedback (circulated). Mrs B Ditcham provided an overview of the Judge's report.
- 3.3 Hanging Baskets – Summer & Winter 2023 – To note number of baskets ordered:
 - Summer – 107
 - Winter – 23

Noted.

4. **Update on ongoing projects:**
 - Adopt-a-Street (GW) – Volunteer numbers stand around 48 currently and litter picking throughout the village continues.
 - Air Quality (BD) – No update.
 - Bridge Copse (SL) (update provided via email 17.07.23). Mr S Loyd provided the following written report: -
 - I had a site visit with Dave Barks from Crow in preparation for a work party on Wednesday. There are good signs of more biodiversity of the ground flora now there is more sunlight entering the copse. There is still quite a lot more to do including removing a colony of Himalayan balsam which has found its way there.

We had a look at the remaining small portion of the site (Charvil side of gate up to riverbank) and chatted to Karl who happened to be there with his cattle. He was very supportive of our project and would be happy to see the patch cleared of laurel (and Japanese knotweed). I guess this area still falls within the landowner's remit. If so, any work would not commence on this area until next summer. Disposing of knotweed is controlled waste so we shall need to comply with guidance.

A nest box has also been put up.

- Quincy Garden (BD) – Mrs B Ditcham reported that maintenance of the area is tricky due to the building works in the Old Boys School however summer plants were added to add colour to the area.
- Garden Areas (GR)
 - Jubilee Corner – TATA had planted pumpkins for their Autumn event which are doing well, and the area is set to have mulch added.
 - Bell Corner – Mr S Loyd asked if it is possible to change the planting in the planter with the village sign (referenced the judge's comments). Mr G Robinson to provide suggestions and costings to the Clerk.

- Polehampton Corner – Hedge planted, and the area is set to have mulch added. Mr G Robinson requested some shade loving plants – Mr G Starkie to put the request in the next TRHA newsletter.
- Millennium Garden – Purple leaf sage needed. Mr G Starkie to put the request in the next TRHA newsletter.
- Stanlake tub – Work needed. Mr G Robinson to provide suggestions and costings to the Clerk.
- Hurst Road Allotments (MB)
 - Twyford Growers – The group continues with good attendance.
 - Communal Area – Area has now been completed and is being well used.
 - Wildflower Area – Twyford Allotment Tenants Association (TATA) have taken on responsibility of maintaining the area. Seeds have been sown.
 - Hazel Copse – Coppicing works to take place over Winter.
- KGVR – Grass Labyrinth (BD/MB) – Establishing well. Winter maintenance recommendations given by Mr David Goff Eveleigh:
 - Give the banks a high cut just to tidy it up. The paths would be low cut.
 - Consider planting all the banks with daffodil bulbs. It would look wonderful in the Springtime.
 - Other ways to enhance the Labyrinth... grass, wood chip, gravel, or paved paths ... banked up banks, planting flowers, wildflowers, grasses, lavender and daffodils ... incorporate it into events and celebrations.
- Loddon Hall/KGVR Wildflower Area (GA). Mrs G Alford provided the following written report:-
 - King George Field: In main area - small area sown with wildflower seed and wildflower plants planted, including cowslip, trefoil, knapweed, ox eye daisy. In gravel area - Steve and I are planning to do some planting and clearing work.
 - Loddon Hall flower bed - will do some tidying up this Autumn and some extra planting.
- Loddon Hall Storage Container (GR) – Mr G Robinson to liaise with Loddon Hall regarding the planting and maintenance plans.

Mr G Robinson advised that the Loddon Hall Committee are happy for the patio area overlooking KGVR to be planted up. Discussions are taking place. Update to be provided at the next meeting.

- Millennium Copse (SL) – Coppicing works to be carried out over Winter.
- Polehampton Charities – No update.
- Polehampton School – Secret Garden (RH). Going well. 35 children are currently involved. The garden is being developed and toadstool stalls are being made from a fallen Ash tree. Mr S Loyd to provide some raspberry canes and herbs for the garden. Any other donations welcomed.
- Pond Mapping (GR) – Ongoing. 12 ponds have now been mapped.
- Rewilding/Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas
 - Verey Close (SL) – No update.
 - Bridge House (GA) – No update.
 - Ruscombe Turn – Has been seeded by WBC.
 - Malvern Way – Has been seeded by WBC.
- Stanlake Copse (IB). Mr I Butterick provided the following written report: -
 - Monitoring of species at Stanlake Copse is ongoing, we are next meeting on 15th October so am planning to update list after an audit then.

Since last meeting we have built another stag beetle habitat using the remains of the willow which was felled on Stanlake meadow. We also used the bark chippings from this to top up the existing layers on the paths through the copse.

- Stanlake Meadow Trees (RH) – Working party to be held 15th October and a planting session scheduled for 19th November where 15 trees will be planted. Volunteers needed.
- Tesco Alley (BD/PC) – No update.

- Twyford Station – planters (PC) – No update.
- Twyford Together (RY/ED/PC) – No update.
- TRHA (GS/MB) – Mr G Starkie reported on the following:
 - Scarecrow Trail – TRHA are planning a display.
 - TRHA Autumn Show – Very successful with more exhibits than ever.
 - Trip to Waterperry House – A very successful and enjoyable trip.

6. New projects for 2023/24:

- Sponsorship of garden areas and planter – Ongoing.
- Coronation Year – Wild Daffodils. Mrs H Winder has obtained four sacks of daffodils. Volunteers needed for planting.
- Wildflower Information Board (Parish Land Project). Mrs G Alford provided the following written report: -
 - Steve and I met to discuss, and Steve is planning to write something which I will add to. In case Emma is not at the meeting she has said that she would like the labyrinth included and has suggested the board goes close to the entrance of the labyrinth.

Mrs R Howard thought that the board would become too busy with the inclusion of the Labyrinth. A separate information board for the Labyrinth to be discussed within the next Parish Lands Meeting.

- Daffodils (miniatures). Mrs H Winder has obtained four sacks of daffodils. Volunteers needed for planting.

7. Correspondence:

7.1 Residents Correspondence - Twyford in Bloom. Noted. Shop window displays to be added to the next agenda.

8. Date of next meeting – 21st March 2024. Noted.

Meeting Closed at 21:23